









SO
HISAKO-
SAN IS HIS
DAUGHTER.



AH.



FATHER...
OUR
FOOD
WILL GET
COLD.



THL. THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.



DO JOIN
US, LITTLE
BROTHER-
SAN.



WHY DID
RYUGORO
COME TO
MY RESCUE
LIKE THAT?





I ALSO
HAVE A
YOUNGER
SISTER...



MY FATHER
HAS NO
INTEREST
IN THE
BUSINESS,
SO MY
MOTHER IS
MAINLY IN
CHARGE OF
THE SHOP.

THEY'RE
BARELY
MAKING
ENDS MEET,
WITH
MEAGER
BUSINESS.



HE HAS A
SISTER?
WOW!



SHE'S TAKEN
AN INTEREST
IN FINANCES
INSTEAD OF
STUDIES.
SHE'S A
HANDFUL.

HISAKO IS THE
SIXTH CHILD,
THE YOUNGEST.
SHE'S QUITE A
TOMBOY.



I'M THINKING
DEPARTMENT
STORES AND
FASHION
BUSINESSES
WILL BEGIN
TO THRIVE.

RYUGORO-
SAN, WHAT
KIND OF
BUSINESSES
DO YOU
THINK WILL
SUCCEED
IN THE
FUTURE?





OH,
STOP IT,
FATHER.



NEVERTHELESS,
IT'S EVIDENT
THAT YOU TWO
ARE SUITED FOR
EACH OTHER,
GIVEN THAT
YOU'VE
ENGAGED IN A
DISCUSSION
SOON AFTER
MEETING.



...IS PLAYING
MATCHMAKER
WITH THESE
TWO!

MAYBE
KANE-
SHUHL



WHAT'LL
HAPPEN TO
ME IF THEY
EVER GET
TOGETHER?



WHOA,
WHOA...
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



THE
BOOMTOWN
HAS COME
TO END
AFTER THE
SINO-
JAPANESE
WAR, THE
POLDRUMS
WILL
CONTINUE
FOR A WHILE.



BY THE WAY,
RYUGORO-
KUN, HAVE
YOU GIVEN
OUR CURRENT
ECONOMIC
CLIMATE ANY
THOUGHT
LATELY?



I INSTRUCTED
THE DOJUKU
INVESTMENT
CLUB TO
AGGRESSIVELY
KEEP BUYING
STOCKS
SHOWING
FUTURE
PROMISE.

BUT THE
BEST TIME TO
INVEST IS
WHEN THINGS
HAVE HIT ROCK
BOTTOM.



BY THE
WAY, ARE
THERE ANY
BUSINESS-
PEOPLE
WHO HAVE
DRAWN
YOUR
ATTENTION
LATELY?



YOU'RE
SOLIDLY
FOLLOWING
THE BASIC
PRINCIPLE OF
INVESTING:
BUY LOW,
SELL HIGH.

YOU ARE,
INDEED,
CORRECT.



...KANEKO
NAOKICHI.

FOR
NOW, THAT
WOULD BE
NO ONE
OTHER
THAN.



KANEKO
NAO-
KICHI.



I MEAN
NOTHING.

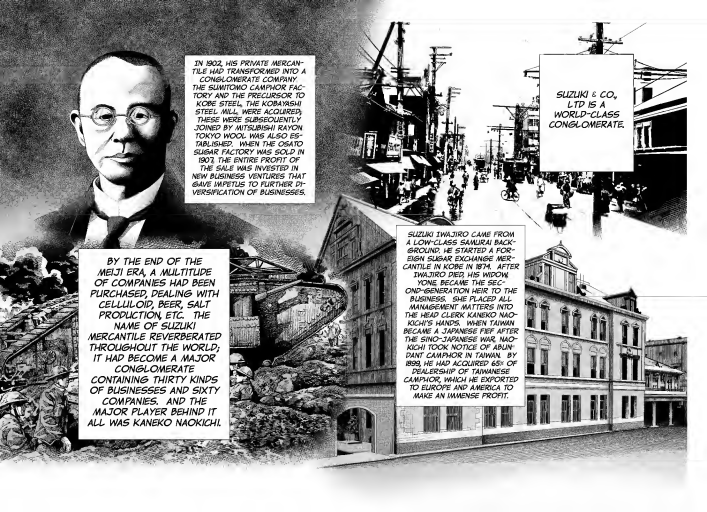


OH!



I HAD TO
STUDY ABOUT
SUZUKI
MERCANTILE
WHEN I
WAS FIRST
DRAFTED
INTO THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB.

I KNOW
ABOUT KANEKO
NAOKICHI. HE
WAS THE HEAD
CLERK OF
SUZUKI
MERCANTILE.



IN 1902, HIS PRIVATE MERCANTILE HAD TRANSFORMED INTO A CONGLOMERATE COMPANY. THE SUMITOMO CAMPHOR FACTORY AND THE PRECURSOR TO KOBELCO STEEL, THE KOBAYASHI STEEL MILL, WERE ACQUIRED. THESE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED BY MITSUBISHI RAYON. TOKYO WOOL WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED. WHEN THE OSATO SUGAR FACTORY WAS SOLD IN 1907, THE ENTIRE PROFIT OF THE SALE WAS INVESTED IN NEW BUSINESS VENTURES THAT GAVE IMPETUS TO FURTHER DIVERSIFICATION OF BUSINESSES.

BY THE END OF THE MEIJI ERA, A MULTITUDE OF COMPANIES HAD BEEN PURCHASED, DEALING WITH CELLULOSE, BEER, SALT PRODUCTION, ETC. THE NAME OF SUZUKI MERCANTILE REVERBERATED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; IT HAD BECOME A MAJOR CONGLOMERATE CONTAINING THIRTY KINDS OF BUSINESSES AND SIXTY COMPANIES. AND THE MAJOR PLAYER BEHIND IT ALL WAS KANEKO NAOKICHI.

SUZUKI & CO., LTD IS A WORLD-CLASS CONGLOMERATE.

SUZUKI IWAJIRO CAME FROM A LOW-CLASS SAMURAI BACKGROUND. HE STARTED A FOREIGN SUGAR EXCHANGE MERCANTILE IN KOBE IN 1874. AFTER IWAJIRO DIED, HIS WIDOW YONE BECAME THE SECOND-GENERATION HEIR TO THE BUSINESS. SHE PLACED ALL MANAGEMENT MATTERS INTO THE HANDS OF KANEKO NAOKICHI'S HANDS. WHEN TAIWAN BECAME A JAPANESE PEF AFTER THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR, NAOKICHI TOOK NOTICE OF ABUNDANT CAMPHOR IN TAIWAN. BY 1899, HE HAD ACQUIRED 65% OF DEALERSHIP OF TAIWANESE CAMPHOR, WHICH HE EXPORTED TO EUROPE AND AMERICA TO MAKE AN IMMENSE PROFIT.



I HAD A MEETING WITH HIM LAST MONTH. WE TALKED ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.



I'VE HEARD OF HIM THROUGH MONMA-SAN.

KANEKO NAOIKIHI IS THE AUTHENTIC BUSINESS MANAGER OF SUZUKI MERCANTILE.



YOU COULD SAY HE WAS BORN A RARE BUSINESS GENIUS.

HE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO IS MADE FROM HARD WORK.



I HEARD HE'S BEING CALLED A "MONSTER" AND "NAPOLEON OF THE FINANCIAL WORLD," AND SO ON.



EVEN A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, MITSUI, MITSUBISHI, AND SUZUKI WILL BE THE LEADERS OF JAPAN'S BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

HE'S FORTY-TWO YEARS OLD, AND FROM TAKACHI UWASAKI YATARO IS FROM THE SAME PROVINCE, AND HE'S NO SLOUCH, EITHER.





PAWN
SHOP
UNIVER-
SITY?



KANEXO
NACKICHI
HIMSELF SAYS
THAT HE'S A
GRADUATE OF
THE "PAWN
SHOP
UNIVERSITY."



HIS
STRENGTH
LIES IN THE
FACT THAT
HE HAS
KNOWLEDGE
ABOUT ALL
KINDS OF
BUSINESS
INDUSTRIES.

HE DEVoured
LITERATURE THAT
HAD BEEN PAWNED.
HE STUDIED THE
FIELDS OF LAW,
ECONOMICS,
LITERATURE, AND
SCIENCE ALL ON HIS
OWN. HIS RANGE
OF KNOWLEDGE
BECAME
ABUNDANT.



HE NEVER
APPLIES ANY
OF HIS
KNOWLEDGE
TO BUSINESS,
HOWEVER.



MY FATHER
READS
PAWNED
BOOKS
ALL DAY
LONG,
TOO.



HE'S GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT ECONOMIC UPTURN. HE'S A DYED IN THE WOOL GENIUS COMPETITOR.

HE'S BUYING UP ONE BUSINESS AFTER ANOTHER THAT HAD BEEN ABANDONED AFTER THE POST-WAR DEPRESSION.



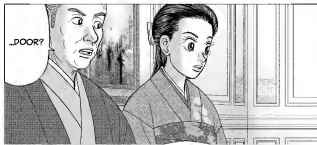
"THERE IS A BACK ROAD ON A MOUNTAIN OF FLOWERS BEHIND THE PATH WHERE NORMAL PEOPLE WALK."

HE'S A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THE PROVERB ABOUT SUCCESS:



HIS BUSINESS WILL DIVERSIFY MORE, AND WILL EXPAND, IT WILL GROW RAPIDLY.

WITH KANEKO NAOKICHI AT CENTER STAGE, SUZUKI MERCANTILE WILL PROSPER MORE AND MORE.







Y-YOU
MISHEARD!
IT WAS AN
AUDITORY
HALLUCI-
NATION!



BUT... YOU
SAID "LIVE
POOR,"
JUST NOW.



WH...
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WHOA,
WHOA...